

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Final Meeting Notes

January 19, 2007

Casa Las Palmas

323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. · Santa Barbara, CA

Note: Audio tape recordings of this Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>US Coast Guard</u>	<u>Tourism</u>
Alternate John Luzader	Member Lauri Baker
<u>Minerals Management Service</u>	<u>Non-Consumptive Recreation</u>
Member Dr. Fred Piltz	Member Scott Dunn
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u>	Alternate Carolyn Green
Member Marija Vojkovich	<u>Business</u>
Alternate Kristine Barsky	Member Bill Spicer
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u>	Alternate Manny Aschemeyer
Member Steve Hudson	<u>Conservation</u>
<u>Santa Barbara County</u>	Member Linda Krop
Member Dianne Meester	Alternate Greg Helms
Alternate Michelle Gibbs	<u>Commercial Fishing</u>
<u>Department of Defense</u>	Member Jim Marshall
Alternate Walt Schobel	Alternate Bruce Steele
Member Steven Schwartz	<u>Recreational Fishing</u>
	Member David Bacon
	Alternate Merit McCrea
	<u>Education</u>
	Member Barbara LaCorte
	<u>Research</u>
	Member Bob Warner
	<u>Public-At-Large</u>
	Member Phyllis Grifman
	Alternate John Rennell
	Alternate Matt Lum
	<u>Chumash Community</u>
	Member Paulette Cabugos

Absent:

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u> Member Mark Helvey Alternate Lyle Enriquez	<u>Tourism</u> Alternate Andrea Moe
<u>National Park Service</u> Member Russell Galipeau Alternate Gary Davis	<u>Education</u> Alternate Dan Powell
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Member Ronald Fien	<u>Research</u> Alternate Bernardo Broitman
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Alternate Dr. Ann Bull	<u>Chumash Community</u> Alternate Reggie Pagaling
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Alternate Kristine Barsky	<u>Public-At-Large</u> Member Eric Kett
<u>CA Resources Agency</u> Member Brian Baird Alternate Leah Atkins	
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u> Member Barbara Carey	
<u>Ventura County</u> Member Lyn Krieger Alternate Jack Peveler	

Meeting attendance was strong. 17 of the Council's 21 voting seats were present at the call of the role, dropping to 11 voting seats by the close of the meeting. Seats absent for the entire day were the National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Resources Agency and Ventura County. The peak number of Council representatives (members and alternates) was 23. Public attendance ranged from 6 to 16 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The November 17, 2006 draft meeting notes were unanimously approved, with one clarifying edit provided by Scott Dunn.

New Members

The following Advisory Council representative appointments were announced:

- Business seat member: Bill Spicer
- Business seat alternate: Captain Manny Aschemeyer
- Conservation seat member: Linda Krop
- Research seat alternate: Dr. Bernardo Broitman
- Public At-Large seat member: Eric Kett (will be absent)
- Non-consumptive recreation seat member: Scott Dunn
- Non-consumptive recreation seat alternate: Carolyn Greene

- California Coastal Commission seat member: Steve Hudson
- California Coastal Commission seat alternate: Barbara Carey
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary non-voting member: Karen Grimmer

New members that were present introduced themselves to the Council: Captain Manny Aschemeyer, Carolyn Greene, and Steve Hudson.

Meeting Notes

The November 17, 2006 draft meeting notes were unanimously adopted as final, with one clarifying edit.

Council Member Announcements

Bill Spicer announced that the City of Santa Barbara has an open position on the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission. Information can be obtained at the city website or at City Hall.

At the request of the Chris Mobley, Marija Vojkavich provided an extended member announcement highlighting recent California Department of Fish and Game activities. Marija announced that the state legislature passed a budget, which allocated \$8 million for California Ocean Protect Council, and \$2 million for the Department of Fish and Game, in support of the MLPA and MLMA. Marija distributed a proposed work plan for the \$10 million to support activities. There are four items proposed that would support marine reserves monitoring in CINMS: SCUBA surveys, ROV surveys, fish trapping, and ichthyoplankton studies. Also proposed are activities that are not specific to the Channel Islands and activities to support operations. In addition, more money from Proposition 84, which was passed this year, may be available. This is an unprecedented amount of funding for management.

In response to questions, Marija stated that this money is identified for both CDFG in-house projects and contracted work. The CDFG has also brought on new employees who will be able to help with the work. There are current projects that have identified gaps where more research is needed. If there are concerns about how the money should be spent, the Ocean Protection Council meetings are open to the public and those concerns can be aired there. It is hoped that there will be money to spread over time, and not just spend it all on one year projects.

There was a public meeting in Santa Barbara on December 1-2 to discuss a preliminary review of the data gathered in a survey in August for the purpose of evaluating the San Miguel Island abalone fishery. Last week there was the 3rd meeting of the abalone advisory group (AAG); the purpose of the group is to provide DFG with ideas of potential management approaches (that are different from past management) if a fishery is allowed to resume. The timeline is to bring management options to the FGC for them to potentially consider a fishery late this year; if FGC decides a fishery is possible then it wouldn't be implemented any earlier than mid 2008. DFG is not at the point yet to ask either the advisory group or the SAC whether or not there should be a fishery.

There are new groundfish regulations that are coming on line in the next few days. Scorpionfish season will be 12 months long, which is different than last year. However, most of the seasons for other species will remain the same. There are some other recreational regulations that won't

be effective until March 1; however, the ruling on these should occur very soon. For more information, visit the CDFG website: www.dfg.ca.gov

Marija provided an MLPA update: the process on the central coast that took place over the last 2 years will come to a close at an upcoming meeting in Bodega Bay on April 13, 2007 where CDFG will decide on the Central Coast MPA regulations. The next study area is the north central portion of state from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Mendocino County. This next process will be a public private partnership and there will be a science advisory group, a regional stakeholder group, and a blue ribbon taskforce. These groups will be appointed no later than April. The timeline for this is for the Fish and Game Commission to adopt a preferred alternative at the end of 2008. For more information see the DFG website. GIS data and regional profile will be available at the start of stakeholder process. The process will last until the end of 2008.

In response to questions about changes in regulations, Marija commented that there is a proposal by drift gill net fishery for access to a closed area on the central coast for sea turtle protections. They argue that limited gillnet fishing could occur without impacting turtles. A team is still working on evaluating this action and the issue will be addressed at the March council meeting.

Steve Schwartz announced that the Navy recently posted a notice of intent to publish an EIS for San Clemente Island and the associated Southern California Operating Area (SOCAL) Range. There will be public scoping meetings at the end of this month. SOCAL is an extensive military operations area surrounding San Clemente Island and the EIS will address activities on the island and on the range around the island, including the use of mid frequency sonar, live fire exercises, and a variety of other activities. The EIS will be a 3-5 year process but it is just beginning so if you are interested this is a good time to become involved. The Navy recently went before the California Coastal Commission for a subset of those exercises, which included a discussion of the use of sonar.

Jim Marshall announced that the San Miguel Island Abalone Fishery Advisory Group (AAG) will have a workshop to work on details of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) alternatives. The workshop is scheduled for Feb 23 with an AAG meeting on the 24th. By the end of the summer they hope to have a set of recommendations for CDFG and the CFG Commission.

Paulette Cabugos announced that at the end of January she will be attending the Los Angeles Superior Court Judge enrobement of Deborah Sanchez who is a tribal member. Another Chumash, Mati Waiya-Executive Director of the Wishtoyo Foundation, performed the opening Blessing for Gov. Schwarzenegger's Inaugural celebration and was also received an Environmental award by California first lady Maria Shriver for his environmental work. These are two great honors for members of the local Chumash Community. Earlier in the fall, the United Chumash Alliance was formed and two members from the local tribe are representing their areas. It will be a great resource and will possibly provide a place to present issues from the SAC to the larger Chumash Community.

Bob Warner announced that the Research Activities Panel (RAP) has not met recently but there are several topics that are ready to be brought to the RAP including: discussion on involvement

in the development of the Sanctuary SWiM Condition Report, a report from sanctuary staff on ecological monitoring, a review of ROV vs. manned submersibles as means to monitor deep water areas, and a request to review data from the AAG. The next RAP meeting may take place before the next SAC meeting. At the end of March there will be a meeting of the west coast sanctuary superintendents organized by Regional Superintendent Bill Douros. Bob stated that he is also a Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper board member and there will be an art exhibit on February 24, 2-4pm at the Santa Barbara art museum on "What the Channel Means to Me" and the Blue Water Ball fundraising event is on March 16.

Linda Krop announced that the Santa Barbara International Film Festival is coming up and this year there will be several nature and ocean films. One Environmental Defense Center board member has a film on the arctic which will be shown on January 31 at the Marjorie Luke Theatre. Secondly, the Cabrillo Port LNG Final EIS and EIR will be released around February 23. The Coast Guard and State Lands meeting will be held in mid March, the California Coastal Commission meeting will be held in April, and the final decision on the license is expected in May. There is more information on the agency websites.

Karen Grimmer announced that as of Tuesday, there are nine open seats on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Karen listed the open seats and asked that members let their friends and colleagues to the north know of these opportunities. The packets are available on the website. The joint draft management review process is winding up. Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries have worked together on revising their management plans. The public comment period closed on January 6 and they are now compiling comments and drafting responses. They hope to have a final management plan by the end of spring or early summer.

Scott Dunn stated that he is happy to have moved up from Non-consumptive recreation alternate to the member. Scott announced that Alex Brodie from Island Packers said that there are lots of whales out in the channel. Scott also had one clarifying edit to the draft meeting notes, which he gave to staff.

John Luzader announced that he recently received transfer orders from Santa Barbara to Puerto Rico. He brought a colleague to the meeting who may serve as his replacement.

David Bacon announced that all is quiet on the western front. Because regulations are stringent at this time of year, there is not a lot to fish for this time of year. Many fishers are working on boat maintenance and other dry land activities. Occasionally, there are opportunities to look for kelp bass and other fish. Hopefully, soon they will be able to fish for sculpin. David urges caution when fishing for sculpin because the spines contain toxins and will cause swelling if you get poked with a spine. However, the fish are very good to eat.

Bruce Steele provided an agricultural water monitoring update: Agricultural interests are monitoring watersheds for pollution and there is substantial pollution from pesticides in watersheds. In the northern management unit (region 3), which runs from Salinas to San Luis Obispo, there was toxicity to insects in 78% of all samples (4 samples are taken per year), compared to 65% in southern region. Many samples have 100% mortality in some watersheds.

Pesticides that are causing these results are winter dormant sprays for two species of insects. New regulations require that if you are using those sprays you have to consult with a certified pesticide applicator and you can not apply them within 4 days of a run off event. It should be noted that in Santa Ynez, which once had the biggest run of southern steelhead, when fish are in the river there are no insects to eat and fish can not thrive. Steelhead is the only fish that is on Endangered Species List in our area and their demise is not from fishing but from dams on the river without fish ladders. Pollution exacerbates the pre-existing problems. Bruce commented on urchin monitoring: urchin fishers are in their 18th year of monitoring urchin recruitment onto brushes. The fishing industry pays for the monitoring, fishers collect the samples, and the university does all analysis.

Carolyn Greene reminded members to note the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps training schedule which is listed in the superintendent's report. The training sessions, which are held in both Ventura and Santa Barbara, are excellent and SAC members are always welcome to attend.

Manny Aschemeyer provided a Ports handbook to all SAC members and announced that on Wednesday February 7 will be the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee and suggested that CINMS staff may want to attend the meeting and introduce themselves to the group. The meetings are open to the public and there is a public comment period at the end of the meeting.

Dianne Black was unanimously re-elected as SAC Chair (a two year term). No other members were nominated.

Superintendent's Report

Chris Mobley highlighted several items contained in the printed report (distributed to SAC members in advance and available on the CINMS web site here: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>.)

CINMS Announcements

In addition to highlighting several items in the Superintendent's Report, Chris also commented on: the status of the NMSP budget (still on a tight Congressional continuing resolution and awaiting an appropriation for the current fiscal year); the status of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Congress to consider this soon); and the news that staff member Sarah MacWilliams has moved to Colorado but is still working for CINMS on contract.

Presentation: Open Ocean Aquaculture, a Draft Report from the Conservation Working Group

Linda Krop explained the origins of the report, the process that the Working Group used to research the issues (literature, contacting experts), the plan to refine the report via SAC member and other comments received by February 13 (send to shiva@edcnet.org), and the intent to also convene an expert panel on this topic at an upcoming SAC meeting.

Shiva Polefka provided a presentation that tracked the report's main findings and recommendations. The report is available on line: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html.

Shiva's presentation began with an explanation of how open ocean aquaculture is expected to grow rapidly, and how some view the oil rigs in the Santa Barbara Channel as ideal structures to support such activities (thus making the issue relevant to CINMS).

Shiva then discussed the environmental implications of open ocean aquaculture, touching on food web impacts (leading to a net loss of wild fish), biological pollution (escape of farmed stock; spreading pathogens and parasites) untreated discharges (organic, inorganic, pharmaceutical) and degradation of marine habitat from noise and entanglements.

Shiva also reviewed the existing federal legislative and regulatory framework for open ocean aquaculture, noting that offshore fish farm operations would trigger the jurisdiction of many agencies, but without a lead agency.

Shiva explained that the Conservation Working Group's overarching recommendation is that CINMS management and stakeholders "employ a precautionary approach to open ocean fish farming in the Channel, to protect Sanctuary resources from uncertain levels of impact."

Shiva went on to explain the following specific report recommendations:

- Support protection of coastal pelagic species from overexploitation from fish farms, and require Channel-area facilities minimize their wild fish inputs;
- Reject farming of non-indigenous or genetically modified fish in the Santa Barbara Channel region; require physical tagging (with facility ID) of all farmed fish to provide incentive for escape reduction;
- Evaluate Open Ocean Aquaculture (OOA) facility proposals with specific criteria to ensure minimization of pathogen and parasite amplification and spread;
- Support discharge controls including use of best practices, selection of herbivorous stocks, and deliberate siting in areas of oceanographically high absorption and dispersion capacity;
- Require during preliminary environmental review that applicants demonstrate that fish farm discharges won't impair CINMS water quality, and analyze and disclose potential cumulative impacts to CINMS-area resources from fish farm proliferation and other factors;
- Require best available technologies and careful, deliberate facility siting to minimize entanglements of marine mammals and turtles. Take on the question of region's suitability for aquaculture given the Sanctuary and Channel biodiversity;
- CINMS staff and stakeholders should actively participate in federal policy development and rulemaking on aquaculture;
- Support environmentally protective federal legislation to help balance promotional policies;
- CINMS staff should adopt the Sanctuary regulatory updates comprising Proposed Actions 3, 4, and 12 of the DMP/DEIS; and
- Support extension of the state's leading edge standards and policy framework as established by the California Coastal Act and the Sustainable Oceans Act into the federal waters.

Council member comments and questions were varied, including:

- Clarification that fish meal is not allowed to be produced in California, so fin fish farms would not be able to lead to increased local harvest of species used for fish meal or fish oil (but others commented that fish meal would have to come from somewhere)
- Concern that the science in the report is not accurate and that the report is really an advocacy piece
- The Research Activity Panel's (RAP's) willingness to review use of science in the report
- Concern that herbivorous fish species that could be raised in open ocean fish farms have yet to be identified
- Concern that Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute should be involved in the development of this report, invited to the meeting, and invited to comment on the report
- Concern that the report places too much emphasis on the potential use of oil platforms for aquaculture
- Concern that the report claims CINMS does not allow any aquaculture within the Sanctuary, but the state has clear authority over this in state waters
- Comments that just because a fishery opportunity might open up (i.e., bait fish for aquaculture) should not imply that the resource would be plundered and such a fishery would be mismanaged
- Recommend that stating that offshore aquaculture development in the Santa Barbara Channel is "highly probable" seems unscientific, and is not advisable language.
- Comments that an increase in open ocean aquaculture represents a global, long term trend, that protein must come from somewhere, and that the rebuttal process is important for developing good policies
- Concern that because the report recommends farming herbivorous fish only (no introduced fish, and no genetically engineered fish) that would remove 100% of the options for raising finfish that might actually have a viable market locally. Is it the intent of the report to build a case against finfish farming in the Santa Barbara Channel and surrounding waters?

Chris Mobley commended the Conservation Working Group on their hard work to produce the report and bring the Advisory Council something to learn from and discuss. He noted that the feedback Council members have is also good, and that the critique is part of the process that, as it has in the past, he feels will lead to a product that members can support.

Presentation: Results of 2003 Bight-wide Surveys

Ken Schiff, Deputy Director of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), gave a presentation on 2003 results of extensive marine environmental surveys conducted throughout the Southern California Bight (SCB), including comparative findings from within the CINMS.

Ken explained that the goal of the regional monitoring program is to objectively assess the spatial extent and magnitude of environmental impact in the SCB by looking at periodic snapshots of environmental conditions.

Ken explained that this is a collaborative effort of nearly 70 organizations, including regulatory and resource agencies, regulated dischargers, universities, and environmental groups. Ken

described “Bight’03” as the third in a sequence (preceded by Bight 94 and Bight 98) that had been coordinated by SCCWRP.

Ken explained that the Bight’03 approach stratified the SCB into 11 habitats of interest: mainland shelf (5-30m, 30-120m, 120-200m), mainland slope, basin (200-500m, 500-1,000m), embayments (ports/bays/harbors, estuaries, LA estuaries), publicly owned treatment works (large POTW, small POTW), and the Channels Islands (CINMS area)

Ken also explained that the survey work was divided into three main assessments (coastal ecology, water column, and shoreline microbiology). Ken then elaborated on the coastal ecology assessment.

Ken showed maps of survey sites and pollution level findings for each of the following measures: sediment chemistry (DDT, copper, PCB), sediment toxicity (*Eohaustorius estuarus*), infauna (benthic response index for hundreds of species), trawl caught fish and invertebrates, and bioaccumulation (DDT in Northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, California market squid, and Pacific chub mackerel).

For all measures, Ken pointed out that the Channel Islands had the lowest pollutant and toxicity readings while providing the most trawl caught fish of anywhere in the SCB.

Ken’s summary points were that:

- ▷ Regional monitoring provides an unbiased view of Bight-wide condition
- ▷ Overall sediment contamination in the SCB is low
- ▷ Actual effects are less than predicted
- ▷ Not all habitats are in equally good shape (embayments have greater sediment contaminations, sediment toxicity and impacts to infauna)

Ken reminded everyone that Bight’08 is coming soon, and they look forward to again working with the Sanctuary.

Ken fielded a wide range of questions from Council members, which prompted discussions about topics such as sources of copper, urban vs. agricultural runoff differences, how and why embayments are particularly worse off with regard to sediment contamination and toxicity, the spatial transport patterns and longevity of DDT in the SCB, the challenge/problem of shifting baselines when setting reference levels for assessments, possible reasons/sources for bioaccumulation of DDT in pelagic fishes.

Dani Lipski, CINMS Research Assistant, closed out the discussion by noting that CINMS continues to work on water quality issues with the resources at hand in several ways that we will build upon as our budget and resources grow. Dani shared two examples: 1) CINMS will be hosting another Hollings Intern in the summer of 2007, Crystal Lowe, who is interested in water quality, and Ken Schiff will be serving as a co-mentor and will be guiding Crystal in working on some of the Channel Islands data from the Bight projects; 2) Donna Meyers, the former Sanctuary Program’s West Coast Region Water Quality Coordinator, had started a Water Quality Characterization and planning process (which followed up on the Conservation Working

Group's Water Quality Needs Assessment) and subsequently, upon leaving her position, subcontracted the work to the Santa Barbara Channel Keepers to finish the Water Quality Characterization.

Dani closed by commenting that we hope to have Dr. Diana Engle, who unfortunately couldn't be here today, provide a presentation on her very comprehensive report on Coastal Water Resources of the Channel Islands National Park, which includes much of the information that the Sanctuary needs for its water quality characterization.

World Heritage Site Designation

Chris Mobley explained a new opportunity to nominate the Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for United Nations World Heritage Site designation.

Chris explained the significance of World Heritage sites, that CINMS/CINP are in the running as a possible candidate to be submitted for UN consideration, and that an application package is being put together by Russell Galipeau.

Chris commented that World Heritage site designation can increase tourism, could help bring in some funding, does not stipulate regulations, and requires regular reporting to assure that the site is being properly managed.

Chris also explained that all parties with any jurisdiction would have to give approval for this to work, including NOAA, the National Park Service, the State, the military (regarding San Miguel Island) and the Nature Conservancy.

The Advisory Council did not yet feel ready to write a letter of support for this possible designation, preferring instead to first learn more about it at a future SAC meeting.

Sanctuary planning process update: Marine Reserves

Sean Hastings provided a staff update on the environmental process to consider designation of marine reserves and conservation areas within the CINMS.

Sean noted that all public comments received have now been compiled and responses have been drafted.

Sean explained that at this point staff are on target to deliver updated documentation to Sanctuary Program headquarters in February, to be followed by a 6-8 week clearance process. Another update can be given to the SAC at the March 16th meeting, and we may see final documents released in April.

Responding to questions, Sean explained that after the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Rule are released, there will be a 30-day cooling off period and then a 45-day period for Congressional and Governor review. A federal notice will then be published to establish the date that regulations will take effect.

Sanctuary planning process update: Management Plan Revision

Mike Murray provided a staff update on the Management Plan revision process, noting that staff are working on drafting responses to 674 comments received, and conferring with regional and headquarters staff with regard to policy and regulatory change issues.

Mike referred SAC members to a handout that contained a partial comment characterization.

Mike also explained that due to missing information about graywater discharge from large vessels (300+ GRT) in the DMP/DEIS, and due to the possibility of inconsistency between the CINMS preferred alternative discharge regulation and the state's new Clean Coast Act, a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be issued by the NMSP this Spring. These documents will be open for 30 days of public comment and will be streamlined (not a reprint of the DMP/DEIS).

Mike and Chris explained that the supplemental process to evaluate possible changes to the Sanctuary boundary will follow the completion of the Final Management Plan, but could not yet say exactly when that process will start. Chris explained that adequate budget resources will need to be in place to support the process.

Presentation on Removal of Lost Fishing Gear within CINMS, and Letter of Support

Kirsten Gilardi of UC Davis and the SeaDoc Society provided a presentation on a recent SCUBA-based fishing gear removal project completed around Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands, and requested a letter of Council support for continued funding of this work.

Kirsten described problems with derelict or lost fishing gear, explaining that it can: persist in the marine environment; entangle and trap invertebrates, fish, birds, mammals; degrade marine ecosystems and sensitive habitats; damage propellers and rudders and snag other fishing gear; endanger divers and swimmers; and impact the livelihoods of fishermen.

Kirsten explained the origins of this work, tracing back to Hawaii and Washington state, then becoming the California Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project with pilot sites in Humboldt, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles county, and now CINMS.

Kirsten explained how fishing gear is located through diver surveys, sidescan sonar for pots/traps in select habitats, reports from individuals online and via a toll free hotline, and by search and collection. Working with experienced fishermen (Kenny Hill, Mike Neil, and Mark Brubaker) the search and collection method proved the most effective for locating gear within CINMS.

Kirsten also explained the process for removing gear, which involved help from SCUBA divers and the use of float bags, an on-board winch, and cutting tools.

Results from three weeks of operations in CINMS were:

- ▷ 326 targets removed off Santa Cruz Island and Anacapa Islands

- ▷ 142 (44%) were lobster traps (none intact); remaining gear was frames, ropes, and recreational gear
- ▷ 3,760 pound purse seine net was removed off the eastern end of Santa Rosa Island, in 75-100' of water

More than 80 traps were returned to fishermen, Kirsten explained, for a savings of \$4,000 to 8,000. Other gear was recycled if possible or sent to landfills.

Kirsten summarized pilot year highlights as featuring the removal of nearly 10 tons of derelict fishing gear from Southern California, strong collaborations with fishermen (contracting with urchin divers; repatriation of gear to fishermen), and good cooperation from agencies (CINMS, CDFG, CINP).

Looking ahead, Kirsten said she hopes to focus on:

- ▷ removing derelict recreational gear from piers and establishing recycling stations;
- ▷ gaining expertise in removal of all types of derelict fishing gear (e.g. more nets, crab pots);
- ▷ developing incentives, compensation and cost-recovery strategies;
- ▷ considering gear loss prevention strategies;
- ▷ conducting public outreach; and
- ▷ promoting a regionally-based project aimed at sustainability.

Kirsten's presentation is available in PDF-format by request, and was included in the absentee packet sent to those SAC members that were not at the meeting.

Following Council questions and discussions, **the Council approved by vote (10 yes, 1 no) that a SAC letter be sent to the California Ocean Protection Council expressing support for the funding of Kirsten's work in the CINMS.** The one no vote was cast due to a lack of information available about what other proposals might be competing for the same funds. The SAC letter to be sent will contain the same language as the draft version contained in SAC members' meeting packets, except that the word "derelict" will be replaced with "lost" in the four places it appears.

2007 Sanctuary Advisory Council Work Plan

A draft SAC work plan was provided, showing a list of 24 tasks/issues ranked as high, medium or low priority based on responses gathered from Council members at the November 2006 meeting.

The Council discussed several additional write-in suggestions that had been previously submitted by members, but which had not yet been prioritized by the group.

The Council unanimously approved the draft 2007 Sanctuary Advisory Council Work Plan, with the understanding that staff will collect and compile additional rankings on items 8g through 8s, then finalize the work plan.

Nine members handed in their additional rankings on these items, and absentees will be asked to do the same by January 31, 2007. A revised Work Plan will be distributed to Council members and posted on the CINMS web site.

2007 Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs Annual Meeting

The Council talked about two “community values” discussion questions that all SAC Chairs have been asked to explore at the May 2007 SAC Chairs annual meeting in Newport News, Virginia. The two questions are: 1) *“What values do you place on marine resources in general and sanctuaries in particular, and why?”*; and 2) *“What values should the NMSP seek to build in the 300 million Americans that do not live near sanctuaries to convince them to take action and/or change their behaviors in ways that will benefit marine resources?”*

Council members provided a diverse range of thoughts and ideas on these themes, including:

- Helping the public understand that “sanctuaries are pristine” (but, it was also noted, be careful with what you mean by “pristine”, as sanctuaries are not actually that way)
- Sanctuaries are and can be a lightning rod for making marine conservation happen
- Using television commercials or public service announcements (PSAs) about sanctuaries on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Consider a PBS-based “news show” on Sanctuaries.
- Use the “telepresence” approach (linking live footage with live divers to shore-side audiences) to reach more people, such as the system being further developed at CINP/CINMS
- When ocean issues make national news, capitalize on this by following up with stories about what sanctuaries are doing
- Learn from National Park Service messages that have been effective; consider a “protecting wilderness” theme
- Capitalize on the public attention that global warming is receiving, and bring attention to associated ocean issues
- Let people know that everyone is upstream, no matter how far they live from the ocean, and that sanctuaries are down stream
- Be mindful that many folks from inland communities work the land for a living, and don’t have a favorable experience with the federal government’s involvement in “zoning” those lands, as we’re now starting to do in the sanctuaries.
- Don’t forget to tell the public about the importance of funding those agencies charged with the responsibility to care for the ocean and its resources
- Consider the trend that newspapers are struggling, and as a result they are hungry for more content to be provided to them
- Utilize a “drip campaign” with Congress to raise their awareness of and attention to marine conservation issues
- An important community value is that we can still take our kids, and grandkids, out fishing in sanctuaries.
- A talented photographer can capture so much beauty from these places, and that can be very influential
- Sanctuary Advisory Council are enlightened, committed caretakers of these special places. This too is an important community value.

These Council ideas will be drawn on by Chair Dianne Black when she participates in discussions at the SAC Chairs annual meeting in May

Future SAC meeting schedule and agenda topics

Schedule for future SAC meetings & events:

- Friday, March 16, 2007, Ventura
- Friday, May 18, 2007, Santa Barbara
- Friday, July 20, 2007, Ventura
- Saturday, September 15, 2007: Possible SAC field trip to CINMS to participate in the state-wide Coastal Cleanup Day
- Friday, September 21, 2007, Santa Barbara
- Friday, November 16, 2007, Ventura

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:

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